

Print shop arms teens with a trade

By Joanne Maliszowski
staff writer

It's self-sufficiency of a sort. Just about every piece of printed material in the Farmington School District — letterhead stationery, envelopes, forms, newsletters and even graduation programs — is printed in-house.

Better yet, each time the district needs graduation programs, newsletters, or any other type of printed material, students get the job.

"We are about one-third of the cost of outside printing," said Denny Zaleski, the district's production arts teacher. "We have no labor costs."

Instead, about 135 students enrolled in one of two print shop classes actually produce the printed materials needed by the school district. In one job alone, the students print, for example, 35,000 copies of the district newsletter.

"We don't do anything unless it can be a student learning experience," Zaleski said.

And there's little doubt that everything the students do, whether in the

beginning printing class or the advanced, is a learning experience. The students do everything that would normally be involved in a print shop.

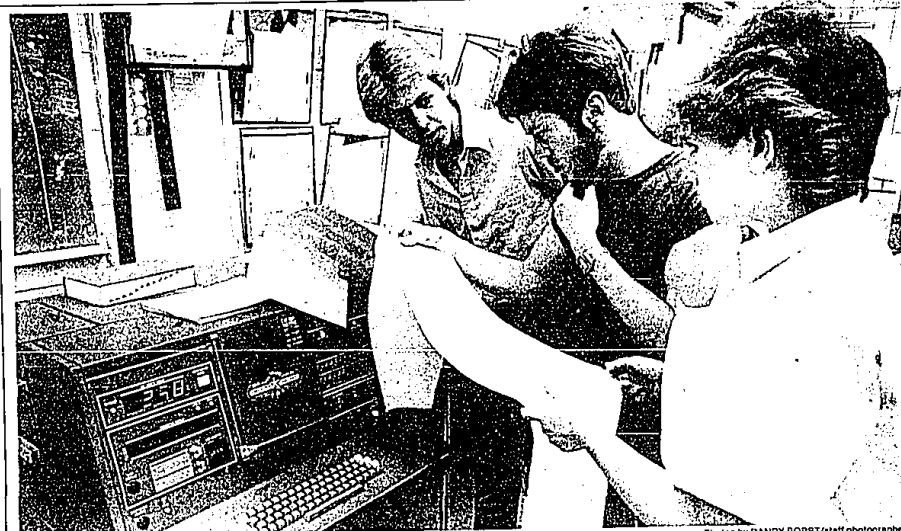
"Students get involved with doing the typesetting and everything," Zaleski said. "They get a sense of accomplishment when they see their product."

THE STUDENTS' work starts by taking the text, let's say for a newsletter, putting into a word processor, coding it for typesetting and then pasting up the pages.

Only about 20 percent of the students' work is actually done on the presses, Zaleski said. The greatest part of their education is layout, design, and even photography. Students learn not only how to take a photograph, but also how to develop film and then crop the final print to fit the space on the page to be printed.

Their education includes graphics, management, equipment maintenance, cost estimates for print jobs, use of col-

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Photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

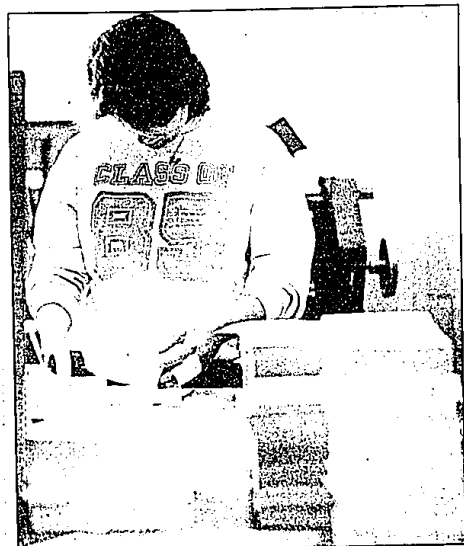
Students (left to right) Mike Wickham, Tony DeForge and Karri Koss examine some type that has come out of the photo typesetting machine.



Learning how to maintain the press is part of the job for Jeff Drahuse (left) and Miko Merem who take time from printing the "Up Front" district newsletter.

'The thing is that they are just learning and being told it will change. So I try to instill in the students that they have to be ready for change. The way they are doing it today is not the way they will be doing it tomorrow.'

— Denny Zaleski
Farmington High
School
production arts
teacher



Printing is more than running the presses as the production arts students soon discover. Students take turns learning the various processes involved with the entire printing industry. Standing in front of stacks of finished printed copies Lisa Brown (left) has the job of checking each printed copy to be sure they are without mistakes. While she completes one task, Michael Forge (below left) and David Hovey are busy stripping a photographic negative.



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